

ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting held on
Thursday 11 September 2025**

Present: Revd Adrian Jones (Vicar; Chairman), Revd Cecilia Adjadje, Kate Adams, Amanda Beck, Mick Gasper, Sian Howard, David Palmer, Nigel Siesage (Secretary), Ida Stanyer and Amanda Youngman

Apologies for absence were received from Beryl Bonfield and Tabitha Fogg

The PCC reflected on Psalm 25.

25/47 PARISH ACCOUNTS

The PCC reviewed the half-year accounts, noting that the overall deficit (Church and Parish Centre) currently projected was £40,000. Unallocated reserves at 30 June stood at £26,500 of which £20,000 was represented by a legacy.

The PCC reaffirmed its view that the financial position was a cause of considerable concern. It agreed that the immediate objective must be to reduce the projected deficit by at least £25,000. The need to generate additional income for the Parish Centre to replace that arising from the loss of the Play School was one of the priorities; and in this respect there was a promising enquiry from another School. This on its own would not be sufficient.

25/48 DIOCESAN CONTRIBUTION

The PCC considered a range of options for the annual contribution (or Parish Gift) to the Diocese. It noted that the combined contribution of the two parishes in the Benefice exceeded the costs of clergy stipends and associated overheads born by the Diocese. The PCC had not previously directly linked its contribution to this, and had always (with the exception of the pandemic year) endeavoured to give an annual increase. Present circumstances, particularly related to the loss of Parish Centre income, meant that the PCC must reluctantly reduce its donation. The PCC unanimously **agreed:**

- a) to withhold the final two months' scheduled contributions for 2025; and
- b) to reduce its contribution for 2026 to £55,250, a saving of some £10,000.

25/49 WEBSITE

The PCC agree that the Parish website needed to be modernised. The current design and the infrequent updating of much content meant that it was not effectively serving either the Parish's mission or the Parish Centre's commercial objectives. Dr Howard agreed to investigate possible options for a new design.

25/50 LEGACY

PCC gave preliminary consideration to the use of a legacy of £20,000. Options considered including a contribution to the new ramp and furniture in the north aisle, the provision of a large print bible in the New International Version for the lectern, a number of new bibles for church; and restoration of pedestrian access to the churchyard from the bottom of Church Lane. Final decisions would be made at a future meeting.

25/51 MINSTER COMMUNITIES

The Vicar provided an update on the series of meetings being held across the projected Teal Minster Community. These would lead to a meeting on 27 September at St Hugh's, which in turn might enable a working group to draw up proposals for the formation of the Community, which PCCs will be able to consider and ratify.

25/52 PARISH CENTRE

Quotes for conducting a structural survey had been received. Further investigation and legal opinion were required on the covenant with the City Council.

25/53 TOWER STAIRCASE

The Tower team were now reviewing how to proceed in the light of the architect's advice (minute 25/39 refers).

25/54 PLACE OF PEACE

Planning Permission was awaited. The Faculty would then be granted and planting would finally begin in Spring.

25/55 DISABLED ACCESS RAMP

Installation was now scheduled for 8-10 October.

25/56 SAFEGUARDING

The Vicar presented an updated safeguarding procedure which was unanimously approved. It was hoped that this would make the role of Safeguarding Officer clearer and thus make it easier to recruit to the position. The Vicar would write an article for the Magazine or Newsletter and the procedure should be made accessible from the website.

25/57 MINUTES

The minutes of 22 July 2025 were taken as read and approved subject to a minor amendment.

25/58 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr Britton was currently reviewing the Health and Safety Policy.

The unsafe bench mentioned at recent meetings would be repaired in the coming week.

25/46 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday 7th October, Thursday 13th November at 7.30pm. The Vicar would propose meetings for the following period.

Chairman

Meeting closed 9:12pm